



Stoneleigh Elementary School

PTA[®]

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Gold and Blue Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 6

February 26, 2009

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

Stoneleigh Elementary School PTA Monthly Meeting Schedule

March 12, 2009

May 14, 2009

All parents are welcome to attend our PTA Board Meetings. Meetings begin at 7:00pm in the library unless otherwise noted.

Attending the PTA meeting is an this is an excellent opportunity to find out what's happening at our school. During our meeting you will hear from PTA committees as well as school staff. We value your input!

Final Accounting for Holiday Bazaar

PROFIT BY ACTIVITY

Bake Table	\$443.40
Crafts	\$761.40
Gingerbread houses	\$1,150.80
Face Painting	\$97.35
Greens	\$857.16
Kids only	\$9.47
New 2 You	\$956.25
Vendors	\$2,394.25
Program Ads	\$705.00
Misc. Expenses	(\$131.00)

TOTAL PROFIT



\$7,244.08

Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY

- 26 Central Area Education Advisory Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Riderwood Elementary
- 27 Deadline for Gold and Blue and Creative Too! submissions

MARCH

- 2 Individual Spring and Class Pictures
- 3 Family Arts Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 4 Grade 5 Parent Orientation at Dumbarton Middle, 7:00 p.m. (**rescheduled date**)
- 9 Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) Meeting, Greenwood, ESS Building, Room 114, 7:00 p.m. Topic: Best Practices for Students with Autism
- 10 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Greenwood, ESS Building
- 12 PTA Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library
- 16-31 MSA Testing, Grades 3-5

APRIL

- 3 Third Marking Period Ends, **Schools Close 3 Hours Early**
- 6-13 Easter/Spring Break, **Schools Closed**
- 15-17 PreK, Kindergarten, and New Student Registration
- 21 Stoneleigh STEM Fair
- 23 Family Social Event – Spring Tea and Pajama Party
- 24-25 PreK and Kindergarten Round-up

Newsletter Information

Would you like to see your information printed in the March 26 edition of the newsletter? Just send your articles/information by **March 20** to Sheri Buttarazzi at sbuttarazzi@gmail.com. Editing for space/content may occur. Thanks for contributing!

Stoneleigh Elementary School PTA

900 Pemberton Road ❖ Baltimore, MD 21212

410.887.3600

PTA 2008-2009 OFFICERS

Please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Board with any PTA related questions or concerns you may have. Thank You!

PRESIDENT	Kelly Friedman	410-377-8998
1 st VP	Denise Supensky	410-825-6498
2 nd VP	Vicki Damanti	410-583-2174
SECRETARY	Kim Deinlein	410-377-2997
TREASURER	Fred Kline	410-377-6392

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SR2S) AT STONELEIGH ELEMENTARY

Safe Routes to School is a program designed to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and routine activity. In the past 40 years, walking to school has declined dramatically. In 1969, 87% of children living within 1 mile of the school walked, whereas in 2001 only 63% walked. Traffic danger was the second most common reason cited by parents for not allowing their children to walk to school according to a 2004 nationwide survey. As vehicle traffic increases, parents become more convinced that walking to school is unsafe. 20-25% of all morning rush hour traffic is attributable to parents driving their children to school.

What are the benefits of Walking to School?

Walking to school provides regular exercise for children. It provides opportunities for developmental health. Motor vehicle traffic is reduced which can improve air quality. A reduced volume of traffic also makes the school zone safer.

What has Stoneleigh been doing to create a Safe Route to School Program?

- ❑ In 2004 SES launched Walking Wednesdays, an award winning program that encourages students to walk to school. Since its inception SES has logged over 40,000 walking miles!
- ❑ In 2006 the PTA and SES administration convinced BCPS to install a new sidewalk along the west side of the parking lot and widen the existing Pemberton Road sidewalk. Previously a single, 4 foot wide sidewalk along Pemberton Road was used by Kiss n' Go drop offs AND all pedestrian traffic arriving at school from the south and west exposing children to dangerous crowding along a busy street.
- ❑ In 2007 SES, the PTA, neighborhood leaders and Baltimore County Department of Public Works partnered to assess the walking infrastructure in the 2-mile radius surrounding the school. Sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and street crossing improvements were proposed.

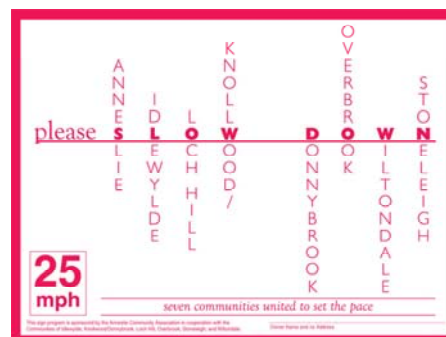
- ❑ In the Fall of 2008 improvements to Register Avenue including new sidewalks, roadway striping and road reconfigurations were constructed to improve safety for students walking to school.

What's next?

- ❑ We are now looking at infrastructure improvements in the Stoneleigh, Wiltondale, Overbrook and Knollwood/ Donnybrook neighborhoods.
- ❑ The One Less Car Community Pace Program is being coordinated with a yard sign campaign within the seven neighborhoods of Stoneleigh Elementary School as a means to reduce traffic speed and raise awareness of safety concerns for our young students.

How can I get involved?

- ❑ Look for notices of upcoming public meetings at SES regarding SR2S and attend!
- ❑ Contact your Community Association to let them know your safety concerns. Contact Beth Miller at 410-377-4369 to find out how to help through the PTA.
- ❑ Go to www.anneslie.org to order a yard sign by March 15th and/or go to www.onelesscar.org and sign up to become a Community Pace Car.



TIDY CORNER



Here are some ideas on tackling any organizing project.

Clutter Tips:

- Choose a place less challenging than others to tackle first.
- Put a boundary tape around your focus area.
- Increase the light in your work area.
- Leave the premises with your clutter in order to focus.
- Take only one box at a time and try going outside or to a non-judgmental friends' house.
- Choose to focus on two projects, one "dense" and one "bulky." Then switch between them to stimulate yourself with the change of environments.
- Play music! "Instrumental only for paperwork."
- Commit to working for a set period of time. Set the timer and feel the time fly!

If you have a tip to share please email me at Hartstein@comcast.net.

Chris Hartstein
Professional Organizer/Owner
Home Organizing Made Easy

GOLD AND BLUE AND CREATIVE TOO!

Submissions are due February 27th! If your submission is not already turned in, you can still be part of the publication by emailing your typed entry to goldandblue@gmail.com! Artwork may be scanned and sent; entries submitted on paper can be put in the box outside the office. Don't miss your opportunity to be published!

Volunteer Connection

Kindergarten Roundup

We need parents to help staff the PTA welcome table during Kindergarten Roundup. This is a terrific opportunity for families who currently have a kindergarten student to interact with a new Stoneleigh family registering a child for next year. This is a great way to make a "connection!"

The commitment is only an hour or two on April 24th or April 25th.

For more information, please contact Sheri Buttarazzi at 410-377-0646 or sbuttarazzi@gmail.com.

~Vicki Damanti, Volunteer Coordinator
stoneleighpta2ndvp@gmail.com or 410-583-2174

Have a Heart for Homeless Children and Youth Campaign

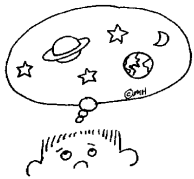
Stoneleigh Elementary School is participating in the "Have A Heart for Homeless Children and Youth Campaign" this year during the month of February. Please help to support homeless children, youth and their families in Baltimore County Shelters by collecting: toiletries such as soaps, lotions, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, chap sticks, combs, hair brushes, toilet paper, new washcloths and towels, etc. (No medicines or razors, please)

Your child's homeroom teacher will have a box in their classroom for the collection of these items. We are asking that you send these items in with your child starting February 17 through February 27, 2009.



Thank you in advance for your support and generosity of this worthwhile campaign.

It's Not Too Late to Participate in the STEM Fair!!!



All Stoneleigh students have received a packet of information about the Stoneleigh STEM Fair. If your child would like to learn about the scientific method, get prizes, and have fun, he/she should participate in the STEM Fair!!!

Visit our school webpage at <http://stoneleighes.bcps.org>, click on the Parents Page, and download the forms under your child's grade.

The Summary and Approval Forms should be turned in no later than ~~February 20, 2009~~. **DUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

Stoneleigh STEM Fair – Tuesday, April 21, 2009

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at meibl@bcps.org.



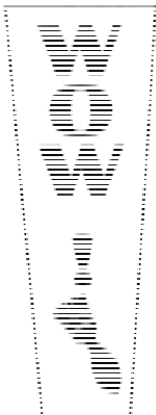
kids for change
The Stoneleigh Service Project

The Book Exchange at Game Night raised over \$70! All of the money will go to Govans Elementary School for uniforms. The unsold books will be donated to The Baltimore County's Children's Abuse Center. Thank you and your children for working at the event; we hope your family found some good books to bring home!

Look for more to come from Kids for Change soon.

Questions? Please contact Lee Corbett at KidsforChange@comcast.net.

Reflections Participants Recognized



We are proud to announce that three of our Stoneleigh Elementary student entries into the 2008-2009 PTA Reflections program were named winners of Awards of Merit from the Baltimore County judging level for their outstanding interpretation of the "WOW!" theme:

Visual Arts, Primary Age Group

Award of Merit to **Nicholas Chang**

Visual Arts, Intermediate Age Group

Award of Merit to **Clayton Dombeck**

Literature, Primary Age Group

Award of Merit to **Katherine Buttarazzi**

Some facts about this year's program:

- 20 elementary schools participated at the local level
- There were a total of 987 entries (from elementary, middle and high school students)
- 292 entries were submitted for Council level judging (231 of them elementary entries)
- 151 entries were selected to receive recognition at the County level: 54 Awards of Excellence and 97 Awards of Merit

Our three Stoneleigh Merit Award winners will be recognized at a special Baltimore County ceremony in March, to be called on stage and given a Merit medallion. Congratulations!

Be on the lookout next fall for the PTA Reflections entry information and be sure to get in on the excitement!

Giving a Fish a Bath: The Untold Story of the Adolescent Mind

“AWESOME!”



“An entertaining way to learn brain science.”

“Frank is passionate, intelligent and engaging.”

“This is by far one of the best workshops ever. It was jam-packed with tips and techniques I could put to use immediately!”

The Upside Down Organization • 6802
McClellan Boulevard, Baltimore, MD
21234 • 4108702481
www.upsidedownorganization.org

Presented by
Frank J. Kros, MSW, JD

April 20, 2009

7-9:30 p.m.

Dumbarton Middle School
300 Dumbarton Road, Baltimore, MD 21212

Recent discoveries in neuroscience offer exciting insights into how the brains of our teens really work and the special “brainbased” challenges facing adolescents as they mature. Learn the inside secrets of the teenage brain and boost your skills in teaching, guiding, mentoring and motivating the adolescent mind. **If you’ve ever thought that the adolescent mind could not be understood, this workshop will equip you with the latest insights and information through a fun and transformational experience.**

Led by awardwinning national speaker and parent of two teenagers, **Frank Kros**, this workshop is a “musthave” for child-serving professionals and parents who want to learn more about the ***secrets of the teenage brain!***



The Stoneleigh PTA Family Fun Committee
would like to say

Thank You

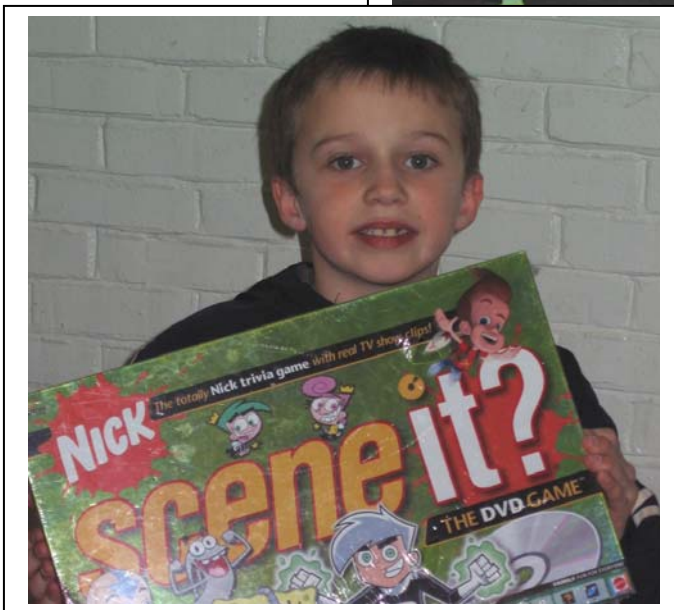
to all of our volunteers and donors.
Without you, none of our functions are possible.

We would especially like to thank:

Stoneleigh Duckpin Bowling for Bowling Night
Chick-Fil-A and **Wegmans** for snacks at game night
Shananigan's Child's Play, **Little Lamb Consignment**
and **Greetings and Readings** for prize donations.



What a terrific turnout!



This first grader is going to have fun with his new game!



This third grader knows how to play BINGO!

Sipping, Snacking and Tooth Decay

Many parents across the country will issue a common refrain at dinnertime tonight: "You'd better eat that-- it's good for you!" There's another old favorite in the parental arsenal of dietary admonitions: "Don't eat that—it'll rot your teeth!" Now more than ever, kids are faced with a bewildering array of food choices -- from fresh produce to sugar-laden processed convenience meals and snack foods. What children eat and when they eat it may affect not only their general health but also their oral health.

When sugar is consumed over and over again in large, often hidden amounts, the harmful effect on teeth can be dramatic. Sugar on teeth provides food for bacteria, which produce acid. The acid in turn can eat away the enamel on teeth.

Americans are consuming foods and drinks high in sugar and starches more often and in larger portions than ever before. It's clear that "junk" foods and drinks gradually have replaced nutritious beverages and foods for many people. For example, the average teenage boy in the U.S. consumes 81 gallons of soft drinks each year! Alarmingly, a steady diet of sugary foods and drinks can ruin teeth, especially among those who snack throughout the day. Common activities may contribute to the tendency toward tooth decay. These include "grazing" habitually on foods with minimal nutritional value, and frequently sipping on sugary drinks.

Almost all foods have some type of sugar that cannot and should not be eliminated from our diets. Many of these foods contain important nutrients and add enjoyment to eating. But there is a risk for tooth decay from a diet high in sugars and starches. Starches can be found in everything from bread to pretzels to salad dressing, so read labels and plan carefully for a balanced, nutritious diet for you and your kids.

Reduce your children's risk of tooth decay:

- Sugary foods and drinks should be consumed with meals. Saliva production increases during meals and helps neutralize acid production and rinse food particles from the mouth.
- Limit between-meal snacks. If kids crave a snack, producing acid.
- Monitor beverage consumption – Instead of soft drinks all offer them nutritious foods.
- If your kids chew gum, make it sugarless – Chewing sugarless gum after eating can increase saliva flow and help wash out food and decay-day, children should also choose water and low-fat milk.
- Help your children develop good brushing and flossing habits.
- Schedule regular dental visits

February is National Children's Dental Health Month

RECYCLING!

Did you know that household batteries are some of the most toxic items you can send to the Baltimore County Landfill? As they age, they release heavy metals such as lead and cadmium that can get into our air and water. Stoneleigh Elementary's latest project in its quest to become a **green** school is to help recycle the batteries we all use every day. Bring your household batteries to school and place them in the collection boxes in the office or in Ms. Slattery's room (204). Stoneleigh parent volunteers will then drop them off at IKEA, which has a recycling program. Bring only household (aka "dry cell") batteries from toys, flashlights, smoke detectors, etc. If you have any questions, please email msslattery@bcps.org. Thanks for helping to make our school, and our world, a **greener** place.

To find out more, visit the following website: <http://earth911.com/hazardous/single-use-batteries/>.

